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WITH A NEIGHBOUR LIKE CHINA, INDIA MUST LEARN TO COMPETE: JAISHANKAR

Boosting domestic manufacturing will help India grow its influence and compete with China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said

'DIPLOMACY IS A WORK OF PATIENCE'

Speaking to PTI on the border dispute, he reiterated that there cannot be a normal relationship between India and China, as long as there is no peace and tranquility at the border. "If somebody is at your front door in an unfriendly manner, you are not going to go out there and act as though everything is normal," he said, adding that diplomacy is a work of patience

ADDING MUSCLE TO INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

- On boosting domestic manufacturing, Jaishankar said building strength at home will allow India to pursue a strong foreign policy
- "If I can build up my manufacturing... I think you are going to find the foreign policy has much more resources and much more tools in its toolkit to actually influence the world," the external affairs minister said | P7

12.87%

AVERAGE YEARLY GROWTH OF INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN 2015 AND 2022

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Poll fate of four ministers to be decided today

Close contests expected in Bihar's Begusarai and Ujiyarpur, and Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

THE electoral fate of Union minister Giriraj Singh, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, and TMC's firebrand leader Mohua Moitra will be decided on Monday as the fourth phase of Lok Sabha polls will be held across 10 states and Union territories.

This phase of polling is keenly watched because a number of political heavyweights, including four Union ministers, are seeking re-election. Giriraj Singh and MoS Home Affairs Nityanand Rai are fighting from Bihar's Begusarai and Ujiyarpur, respectively, while MoS Ajay Mishra Teni, whose son is an accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, is eyeing a hat-trick from the Uttar Pradesh constituency. Another Union minister, Arjun Munda, is looking to keep his seat from Jharkhand's Khunti.

Nityanand Rai, considered to be right-hand of top BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is pitted against RJD candidate Alok Kumar Mehta in the Kushwaha-Yadav-dominated Ujiyarpur LS seat in Bihar for a third consecutive term.

Among the other prominent candidates are actor-turned politician Shatrughan Sinha (TMC), who is contesting from West Bengal's Asansol, Asaduddin Owaisi who is pitted against BJP's Madhavi Latha in Hyderabad, and Andhra Congress chief Y S Sharmila (Kadapa).

Akhilesh Yadav, who entered the fray at the last minute by replacing his nephew Tej Pratap, is seeking to wrest SP family bastion Kannauj from the BJP. TMC's Mahua Moitra, who was expelled from the Lok Sabha over the cash-for-query allegations, is seeking re-election from Krishnanagar.

The fifth phase of polls will be held on May 20.

PHASE 4 FACTOIDS

96 Lok Sabha seats going to polls in 10 States/UTs

1,717 candidates in the fray

17.7 crore people eligible to vote, of which **8.73 cr** are women

All **25** seats in Andhra, **17** in Telangana, **13** in UP, **11** in Maharashtra, **8** each in MP and West Bengal, **5** in Bihar, **4** in Jharkhand, **4** in Odisha, and **1** in Jammu & Kashmir going to polls

ANDHRA ASSEMBLY POLLS

Voting to take place for all 175 Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, which is facing a triangular contest involving YSRC, Congress-led INDIA bloc, and the NDA comprising BJP, TDP, and Jana Sena Party. Twenty-eight Assembly seats of Odisha are also going to polls

Victim says she was not kidnapped; questions now over Revanna's arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

IN a major twist to the kidnapping case of the sexual assault victim, in which SIT had arrested JDS MLA HD Revanna, a video clip said to be of the victim has surfaced on social media. In the clip, the woman claimed that nobody had kidnapped her and Revanna and his son and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna are innocent.

The woman was a domestic help at Revnna's residence when she was allegedly sexually assaulted.

The video comes a day ahead of Revanna's bail plea to be heard in a special court on Monday. In the short clip, the woman says she had visited her relative's house in Hunsur for a few days. But when she saw the news on TV channels that her son Raju had filed a police complaint against Revanna, his close aide Satish Babu and Prajwal, she was shocked, she claimed.

"I was worried why my son had filed a complaint when I was not kidnapped by anybody. I want to clarify that Revanna, Prajwal Revanna and Babanna (Satish Babu) did no harm to me. They have looked after me very well. I have no connection to the video (sleaze video of Prajwal Revanna) released on mobile phones. Nobody harmed me. I have not done anything wrong," she said. The woman also assured the family members that she is fine and will return home soon. P4

Prajwal case: SIT arrests 2

Hassan: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) late on Saturday night arrested two youth in Hassan city for posting on social media obscene videos and photos allegedly showing Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna | P4

Pawar vs Vikhe Patil clan joust in Ahmednagar

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

WHEN Maharashtra revenue minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil's son Sujay failed to get the Congress ticket for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, he joined the BJP and won the Ahmednagar seat by 2,77,597 votes against the NCP's Sangram Jagtap.

This time, Jagtap is on Sujay's side since the former is part of the Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP. Yet, Sujay is facing a tough contest as his challenger is Nilesh Lanke of Sharad Pawar's NCP. Lanke resigned as NCP MLA from Parner and joined the Sharad Pawar faction to enter the poll fray.

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS

The Ahmednagar LS seat has been a BJP bastion for the past 20 years. For the first time, it has been challenged by someone who is well connected at the grassroots level. Known for his simplicity, Lanke is just a phone call away for not just party workers but the common citizen as well.

Although the contest is between Sujay and Lanke, its roots lie in a decades-old feud between Sharad Pawar and the Vikhe Patil clan spanning three generations. Sujay's grandfather Balasaheb Vikhe Patil and Sharad Pawar were locked in a tussle over controlling co-operative sugar factories in the region. In 1991, the then Congress leader Sharad Pawar denied Balasaheb the Ahmednagar ticket.

Ahead of 2019 polls, Radhakrishna—who was then with the Congress—had lobbied hard for Sujay's nomination from Ahmednagar. But Pawar refused to let the constituency go to the Congress and fielded Jagtap. Both Sujay and Radhakrishna then defected to the BJP.

Sujay has a powerful family legacy. His father is a minister, as was his grandfather. His great grandfather Vithalrao started Asia's first co-operative sugar factory at Pravaranagar in Ahmednagar district. Besides, Sujay has a vast network of medical and engineering colleges in the district.

The Ahmednagar Lok Sabha constituency has six assembly segments, two of which elected BJP MLAs, one is held by Ajit Pawar's NCP and the rest by the Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP.

For Sujay, his father Radhakrishna's constituency Rahat falling in the Shirdi Lok Sabha seat is a disadvantage. He also committed the blunder of mocking Lanke's lack of fluency in English and Hindi. It was seen as an affront by the Marathi speaking masses. Lanke craftily turned it into a rich versus common citizen narrative. Besides, Lanke's free Covid relief centres at Parner have good recall value.

Sujay is banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma, the party's electoral machinery and his own network for his re-election. When the poll verdict is announced on June 4, the Ahmednagar outcome would be keenly watched. Ahmednagar goes to polls on May 13.

Nilesh Lanke (left) and Sujay Vikhe Patil

ILLUSTRATION: MANOHAR PARIKH

EXPRESS READ

Metro line to Madavara to open by July-end

Bengaluru: After a five-year delay, Namma Metro's Nagasandra to Madavara line, a 3.7-km stretch, is on course to open for operations by July-end. The line was to open in August 2019, but multiple problems dogged it | P2

Cash seizure: ED summons J'khand min

Ranchi: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Jharkhand Rural Development Minister and Congress leader Alamgir Alam for questioning on May 14 after Rs 32 crore cash was seized from his staffers | P7

Boy crushed to death by car driven by uncle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN a shocker, a five-year-old boy was crushed to death by his father's car being driven by his maternal uncle here on Sunday morning. The uncle, who was asked to wash the car by the child's father, had started the car out of curiosity and ended up killing the child. The family of the deceased boy, **Arav**, stays on 3rd Cross, Nanja Reddy Colony in Murugeshpalya. The Jeevan Bima Nagar traffic police registered a case and arrested the accused, Devaraj (18), who is a college student.

Around 10 am, Arav's father handed over his car key to Devaraj asking him to wash the vehicle. After that, the child's parents went inside the house and Arav was playing on the road along with other children, the police said. Devaraj, who headed out to clean the car, out of curiosity inserted the key in the ignition and turned it on. The vehicle started moving and a panicked Devaraj, instead of applying brakes, pressed the accelerator. The car rushed forward and crashed into some two-wheelers and also ended up hitting Arav, the police said. P3

IMD scouts skyscrapers in B'luru for weather radar

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) is looking for space on the rooftop of the city's tall skyscrapers to set up a Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) as it is unable to find an area without any structures in its 30-40 km radius. The presence of a structure interrupts accurate weather readings and forecasts that the radar puts out every three hours.

Given the varying weather conditions of Bengaluru, the city needs its own DWR for accurate and timely weather readings. At present, IMD is using data available from the radars installed in Goa and Tamil Nadu, and via satellites. "Earlier, when space was available, the permission was not given by the head office. Now when we have the permission, location is a problem. Since there are no large vacant spaces in Bengaluru, we have suggested using the rooftop of a tall building. We are requesting private companies and the government for space," said an IMD official. CONTINUED ON: P5